



Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392
(760) 245-1661

MEDIA RELEASE

PAGE ONE OF TWO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 20, 2009

For further information contact:

Violette Roberts, Community Relations & Education Manager

Mojave Desert AQMD (760) 245-1661 ext. 6104

Bill Greulich, Public Information Officer

Victor Valley College (760) 245-4271 ext. 2225

**AIR DISTRICT DONATES ALTERNATE PATROL
VEHICLES TO VVC CAMPUS POLICE**

Victorville – Victor Valley College’s Campus Police Department has unveiled its latest weapons to deter campus crime – two three-wheeled, electric-powered Alternate Patrol Vehicles – also known as “T3’s” - purchased with a grant awarded by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, the High Desert’s regulatory air agency. Officers from VVC’s police department showcased the zero-emission vehicles – which look like a cross between an ATV and a Segway on steroids – during a press conference held at the College on Monday, April 20.

Reaching speeds of up to 25 M.P.H., VVC’s new T3’s are high-performance vehicles with a compact design and a zero-degree turning radius, which means they can easily turn around inside an elevator. According to Jon Schorle, VVC’s Chief of Police, the T3’s are ideal for patrolling a college environment. “They are small enough to go inside a building, if needed, and non-intrusive on pathways and parking lots; they can also help us cut response time in half,” said Schorle.

Another important feature of the T3’s is the accessibility and visibility they afford campus officers in interacting with students and the community. According to Schorle, “These vehicles are perfect

PAGE TWO OF TWO

for a college setting and significantly cheaper to operate than regular vehicles, at about 10 cents per day of electricity. We will be using them to give us increased mobility during sporting and community events where crowds gather.” Schorle added that “The T3’s are a welcomed tool in our quest for student safety and definitely fit the College’s ideology for community policing efforts.”

While the T3’s are expected to help reduce crime at VVC, they are also anticipated to significantly reduce air pollution emissions associated with conventional, gasoline-powered patrol cars used by Campus Police. Under the terms of the \$21,153 grant awarded to VVC by the MDAQMD for the purchase of the two zero-emissions vehicles, the police department will be removing two of their older, gasoline-fueled patrol cars from service. According to Eldon Heaston, Executive Director for the MDAQMD, the vehicle swap represents a win-win proposition for VVC students and air quality alike. “The use of these quiet, environmentally-friendly T3’s means two less patrol cars will be creating emissions and VVC officers will be able to respond to calls faster. With more than 60% of California’s air pollution originating from mobile sources, such as cars, every reduction from this source we can make benefits the air we breathe.”

Additional emission reductions are anticipated from the T3s’ highly energy-efficient electric motors, which get the equivalent of over 500 miles a gallon of gasoline per charge. Additionally, the T3’s never require down time, due to each vehicle’s two rechargeable, lightweight batteries that can be easily swapped out while in use for continual deployment and unlimited range.

Funding for the T3’s was provided through a grant from the MDAQMD’s AB2766 Competitive Grant Program, which utilizes a portion of funds allocated to the air district from motor vehicle registration fees to fund local projects that reduce mobile source emissions.

- END -